

COVID-19 BRIEFING

Updates on COVID-19 in Idaho



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH & WELFARE

February 23, 2022

Welcome to the Department of Health and Welfare's monthly briefing on the department's latest news, communications activities, and resources for the COVID-19 pandemic.

New sections are marked "**NEW**," and all other sections are up to date as of the time of publishing.

Editor's Note: This is the last regular issue of the COVID-19 Briefing newsletter. Issues may be produced in the future on an as-needed basis, depending on the circumstances of COVID-19 in Idaho.



IDAHO DEACTIVATES CRISIS STANDARDS OF CARE AS CONDITION IMPROVE, BUT SOME HOSPITALS ARE STILL REPORTING STRESS

The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (DHW) deactivated [Crisis Standards of Care](#) (CSC) on Feb. 15 in the three public health districts in southern Idaho in which they had been activated in accordance with IDAPA 16.02.09 – Crisis Standards of Care For Healthcare Entities. CSC has been deactivated in Southwest District Health, Central District Health, and South Central District Health in southern Idaho because shortages in staffing and blood products have stabilized.



“Even though things are improving, the number of COVID-19 cases statewide and the testing percent positivity is still very high,” said DHW Director Dave Jeppesen. “Please continue to take the recommended precautions and get vaccinated and boosted, wear a mask in public places, and stay home if you feel sick so those numbers keep trending in the right direction.”

Healthcare systems statewide are generally using contingency operations as circumstances are improving but variable. This means it will be some time before healthcare systems return to full normal operations.

Healthcare systems are still experiencing variable circumstances and will implement their plans to return to a usual standard of operations according to their own policies. In addition, the state will continue to provide statewide coordination and resources including healthcare personnel via FEMA and existing federal contracts until the situation further stabilizes.

[Read the full press release](#) for more about the deactivation process, a timeline, and background on CSC.

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MASKS ARE AVAILABLE FOR IDAHOANS



KN95 masks (one pack of 10 per household) are available for free at various locations around the state. Call the Idaho CareLine by dialing 2-1-1 or 800-926-2588 or your local public health district to find a location near you. <https://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/health-wellness/community-health/public-health-districts>



HEALTH • SAFETY • HUMAN SERVICES



DHW PROVIDES ACCURATE INFORMATION EVERY DAY TO HELP COMBAT COVID-19 MISINFORMATION AND DISINFORMATION

One of the issues that all government and healthcare organizations face during the pandemic is the abundance of false and misleading information available on social media and other communications channels

DHW remains focused on delivering accurate and up-to-date information daily through the following channels:

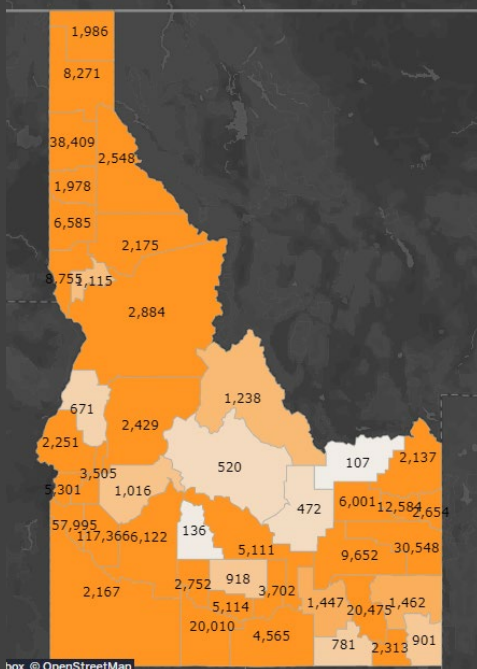
- Social media - [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram @dhwstories](#), [YouTube](#), and [LinkedIn](#)
- [DHW Voice blog](#) (new posts on Tuesdays and Fridays)
 - [COVID-19 Q&A: What do those outstanding positive lab results mean for the daily totals?](#)
 - [COVID-19 Q&A: Vaccines for children](#)
 - [From DHW Director Dave Jeppesen: DHW will continue to correct misinformation about COVID-19](#)
 - [COVID-19 Q&A: Can you help? Idaho's blood shortage is critical](#)
 - [COVID-19 Q&A: Masks are an important tool to protect against disease](#)
- [Weekly COVID-19 media briefings](#)
- Idaho's [Coronavirus website](#) and [DHW website](#)
- Daily responses to information requests from the public and the media
- Public Service Announcements

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COVID-19 DATA ONLINE

COVID-19 statistics, including breakthrough cases and vaccination status of cases, can be found on the [COVID-19 Case, Laboratory, and Hospital Data Dashboard](#). State-level case, laboratory, and hospital data is updated by 5 p.m. MT every day, excluding Sundays and holidays. Data on variants of concern and percent positivity is updated by 5 p.m. MT on Thursdays.

The [COVID-19 Vaccine Data Dashboard](#) includes data on COVID-19 vaccinations by county, public health district, age group, race, and ethnicity.



DHW SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGNS

DHW continues to target misinformation and disinformation on all of our social media platforms, and on our blog at [DHWBlog.com](#). Posts continue to share information about the safety of the vaccines and where to get vaccinated as well as daily updates on percent positivity, case counts, and vaccination milestones.

Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

*Dedicated to strengthening
the health, safety, and
independence of Idahoans.*



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SCHOOLS

Updated weekly summaries of COVID-19 cases associated with schools are available each Monday on the coronavirus website under the [“Schools” tab](#).

COVID-19 VACCINATION INFORMATION ONLINE

The [COVID-19 vaccination information web page](#) includes information on when and where to get vaccinated, and what to expect at a vaccine appointment. The [COVID-19 vaccine section](#) on the coronavirus website is updated regularly. The page includes materials and links to COVID-19 information and recommendations, recordings of DHW’s media briefings, underlying medical conditions that put people at greater risk for COVID-19, among other resources. There is also a link available with resources for COVID-19 vaccine providers.

MEDIA BRIEFINGS

DHW hosts regular briefings for the media about COVID-19 in Idaho. The remote events included updates from DHW officials and others, followed by a question-and answer session with members of the media. The general public can listen in.

For more information about the briefings, visit coronavirus.idaho.gov, and watch the department’s Facebook and Twitter accounts for announcements. ***The next media briefing will be held on March 1 and will be bi-weekly after that.*** Recordings of past media briefings are posted on the state’s [coronavirus website under the vaccine tab](#).



LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES

The summary of COVID-19 cases and deaths associated with long-term care facilities in Idaho is published on the coronavirus website on Fridays under the [“Long-Term Care” tab](#).



COMMUNICATIONS FORUM

DHW’s Office of Communications, in partnership with the Gov. Brad Little’s communications director, hosts a forum for communications professionals in state agencies, health districts, healthcare agencies and facilities, and stakeholders to discuss COVID-19-related communications efforts and strategies. If you are a communications professional and would like to join the call, send an email to communications@dhw.idaho.gov.